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1940

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

GEORGE G. CULMER,

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1940.

WYARD'S PRINTING WORKS, LTD., FAVERSHAM AND HYTHER.

1941

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**For the Year 1940.**

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

I have now the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1940 on the Health Conditions of the Borough: there are no special features to comment upon: the amount of Infectious Disease was small: the usual Influenza appeared in the spring: it was rather mild and few deaths were certified as due to it.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The same officials are carrying on: but the additional Sanitary Inspector left at the end of the year.

NATURE AND CONDITION OF THE AREA

Area of the District in acres: 3,070

Population: Census, 1931, 10,030. Estimated for 1940 (middle) 11,920

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA

These remain unchanged.

The traffic in the Creek has been interfered with by the war to some extent, especially that from abroad, which has practically disappeared.

Number of inhabited houses, 1940 (end of)	...	3,729
Rateable Value of the Borough	...	£70,045/0/0
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£273/0/3

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

There were 139 live births registered during the year—79 males and 60 females. This gives a Birth-rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of estimated population—the average of England and Wales being 14.6. This is less than in 1939 when the total number was 145. There were 5 illegitimate births (Boys 2 Girls 3) none of these children died. There were 2 still births registered: 1 male and 1 female: none of these were illegitimate children.

DEATHS

The number actually registered was 240. From this must be deducted the deaths of 79 persons who belonged to other districts: on the other side we must add 25 deaths in other districts that must be ascribed to this district, as follows:—

Chartham Mental Hospital	...	...	...	6
Canterbury Hospital...	...	...	...	5
Other Hospitals	...	...	...	8
Other Districts	...	...	...	5
Keycol Hill Hospital	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 25

There were 134 deaths in Public Institutions in the district:—110 in Bensted House, 16 in the Cottage Hospital and 8 in the Nursing Home. There were 8 deaths of children under one year of age, and 152 of persons of the age of 65 and upwards.

The result is a net total of 186 deaths. This gives for the Borough a Death-rate for the year 1940 of 15.6 which is above the average for the whole kingdom which is given as 14.3: but lower than in 1939.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year of age was 8 (7 Males and 1 Female), as against 10 in the previous year. This gives a ratio of 57.6 per 1,000 births, against 28 in 1939. The average for the whole country is 55.

No illegitimate infants died during the year.

CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth & Congenital Causes	...	...	...	3
Infantile Diarrhoea	...	...	...	2
CAUSES OF DEATH				
			1939	1940
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
Influenza	...	...	8	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH—continued

	1939	1940
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	7
Tuberculous Meningitis	0	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	2
Cancer	27	27
Meningitis	0	0
Diabetes	4	3
Organic Heart Disease	41	47
Bronchitis	6	12
Pneumonia	6	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	5
Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	2
Appendicitis	0	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Alcoholism	0	0
Nephritis	6	10
Parturition	0	0
Premature Birth and Congenital Causes	1	4
Accidents and Suicides	7	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage... ..	15	12
Arterio-sclerosis	8	2
Syphilis	0	0
Rheumatic Fever	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Digestive Diseases	4	1
Senility	14	8

Total. M. F.

Live Births—					
Legitimate ...	134	77	57	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated	
Illegitimate ...	5	2	3	resident population ...	11.6
Stillbirths ...	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	
				births ...	14.1
Deaths ...	186	113	73	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated	
				resident population ...	15.6

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes ...	0	—
Total ...	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	57.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	57.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	2

COTTAGE HOSPITAL

Beds, 18.

In-Patients Treated	...	...	...	...	209
Out-Patients Treated (Minor Cases)	...	...	...	...	399
Operations—					
Major	...	...	...	...	61
Minor	...	...	...	...	127
X-Ray Cases	...	...	...	...	219

There is also a Provident Dispensary which arranges for the treatment of poor people in their own homes.

HEALTH SERVICES

These are the same as in previous Reports.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service has been maintained at its usual high state of efficiency. Two Ambulances have been in practically daily use throughout the year.

Many minor accidents not necessitating transport have been attended by Brigade Members.

The Personnel have given an immense amount of time to Civil Defence work, which, as during the past two or three years, is additional to their usual activities.

The Units of the Brigade are:—

Ambulance Division for Men.

Nursing Division for Women.

Cadet Nursing Division for Girls

In addition to their Transport work, the members of the Nursing Division have made numerous attendances at the Hospital and the various School, Welfare and Maternity Clinics throughout the year.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There are two private Nursing Homes in the Borough, which are licensed for the reception of Maternity Cases.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

This has been established for some years and is held at the Gospel Hall twice a week, having been open 100 days. 446 children are in regular attendance. An aggregate of 5190 attendances have been made.

An Antenatal Clinic is held on Tuesdays and has had a total of 40 attendances, and was open 11 times.

TREATMENT CASES AND HOME NURSING

These remain as before.

LOCAL ACTS, ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYELAWS

No alteration.

WATER SUPPLY

As in my last Report.

Samples taken—

Chemical Analysis.	Public Supply	...	3
	Wells	...	1
Bacteriological Tests.	Public Supply	...	6

All with satisfactory results.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements are as in my last report: no further deep sewers have been laid down.

The conversion of Privies into Water Closets with flushing cisterns is proceeding also.

Number of Houses in the Borough	...	...	3729
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...	3606
Number of Privies (movable receptacles)	...	...	111
Number of Privies (fixed receptacles)	...	...	10
Conversions into Water Closets	...	...	2

HOUSE REFUSE AND SCAVENGING

Same as last year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

None.

HOME WORKERS

Very little: two lists of out-workers sent in.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

As before.

FACORIES

Number of premises on the Register:—

Factories with power	...	...	...	50
Factories without power	...	...	...	42
				<hr/>
				92
				<hr/>

The occupations carried on in these places show no change from previous reports.

These have all been regularly inspected and kept up to a proper standard of cleanliness and ventilation, and provision of proper sanitary conveniences, and overcrowding has been prevented.

SCHOOLS

The five Schools in the Borough remain as before in their situations and sanitary arrangements.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Regular inspection as required by the Board of Education has been carried out on the children entering school, and also at the ages of 8 and 13. Re-examinations and special examinations have also been made as necessary, the total number of children examined amounting to 1019.

The School Clinics and their arrangements have been continued throughout the year on the same lines as previously.

Statistics of work done--

Tonsils and Adenoids. Operated on	...	...	14
Eye cases. Examinations	...	...	47
Re-examinations	...	...	26
Glasses Prescribed	...	...	67
Glasses Repaired	...	...	6
Dental Treatment. Children	...	...	493
Sessions	...	...	157
Attendances	...	...	961
Extractions	...	...	1095
Fillings	...	...	595
General Anaesthetics	...	...	396
Orthopaedic Scheme. Cases	...	...	6
Minor Ailments Clinic. Sessions	...	...	262
Children Treated	...	...	471
Attendances	...	...	2945
Visits by School Nurse	...	...	279

SUPPLY OF MILK

This has been carried on by the Education Committee: the Voluntary Scheme having come to an end.

NUTRITION

The Nutrition Survey has been continued and records kept of under nourished children; the results are very encouraging.

A.R.P. Shelters have been provided.

EVACUEES

When war broke out 324 Elementary School children were sent to Faversham: they and their teachers being gradually absorbed into our Schools: and were afforded the full benefits of the Medical and Nursing Services and the Clinics. but in the early half of the year they were removed from the District.

HOUSING

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply of the Borough was formerly obtained chiefly from outside its boundaries, but the enlargement of the area has now included some of these sources within the Borough itself: we have now:

Producers of Milk	...	...	...	6
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	13
Registered Premises...	...	...	...	15
Samples sent for examination	...	...	...	25

Three samples of accredited milk gave unsatisfactory results.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There were 8 in the Borough: but 7 were discontinued for the duration of the War.

Details of Meat Inspection are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

BAKEHOUSES

No change from last Report.

RAG FLOCK ACTS AND FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Same conditions as in 1938.

WORKING OF SHOPS ACT, 1934

Inspection under this heading has been limited as the Inspector has been absorbed into A.R.P. duties.

No complaints have been received under the Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The amount of Influenza during the past year has been widespread and of a moderate type only 3 deaths have been attributed to it: with one exception no disease has developed into an epidemic: the total number of notifications is less than in 1939, viz:—52 as against 59.

Of Pneumonia there were 5 deaths registered: 2 of these being infants: 7 deaths were from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The one epidemic was due to German Measles continued during the first of the year and was confined to no particular age or condition: fortunately not serious but causing a lot of interference with school attendance.

Our arrangements for dealing with infection are the same as previously.

Specimens sent to County Laboratory:—

			Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	...	31	1	30
Tuberculosis	...	50	8	42
Typhoid	...	2	0	2
Strept Haemolytic	...	14	5	9
Meningococcus...	...	2	0	2
		99	14	85
		—	—	—

There were 52 cases of infectious disease notified under all headings in 1940 as against 59 in 1939. Of these, 23 cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals. These are classified as follows:—

	<i>Notified</i>		<i>Removed to Hospital</i>	
	1940	1939	1940	1939
Diphtheria	1	9	1	9
Erysipelas ...	12	10	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	6	11	5	11
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0	1
Anterior Polio Myelitis ...	2	2	1	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	4	2	3	2
Ophthalmia, Neonatorum ...	0	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	M.9	M.7	M.8	M.0
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	F.7	F.7	F.3	F.0
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	M.0	M.0	M.2	M.3
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	F.1	F.2	F.2	F.3
Pneumonia ...	5	4	0	1
Measles ...	2	2	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	0	0
	<hr/> 52	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 33

There were 5 deaths from Pneumonia and 7 deaths certified from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I received during the year 14 notifications under Form C, and 13 under Form D.

No action has had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

One case of Tuberculosis has been found not to be notified: it has not been found necessary to take any action in this direction: no action has been taken for disinfection of Bugs.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Cases

	Age Groups—Cases										Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Blind	Deaths
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65+					
Diphtheria ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	0	0	0	0	0
Polio Myelitis	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Ant Polio Myelitis	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0

Deaths

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...	1				1			
10 ...								
15 ...								
20 ...	1			1				
25 ...	2	2				2		
35 ...	2	2			2	1		
45 ...	2	1			2			
55 ...	1	1			1			
65 and upwards ..	1	1				1		
Totals ..	10	7	0	1	6	4	0	0

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register at end of 1940:—

Pulmonary	...	M.	F.
Non-Pulmonary	...	23	34
	...	6	18

Proportion of non-notified Tuberculous Deaths to total: 1 in 10

EVACUATION

When London and the Medway Towns were raided in September a large number of families were quickly evacuated to this District: all more or less destitute: temporary accommodation was found for them as far as possible in houses but the majority were housed in the hop-huts, which fortunately were partly empty: later on, when winter weather appeared, these returned to their own or other Districts. The Mount F.A.P. was found very useful as a centre for the distribution of clothes, which were very urgently required: luckily their health was good, though some were old and infirm.

INSPECTION

During the year I have made routine inspections of the various premises that come under my powers, and special visits as occasion arose.

Unfit Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Factories	...	...	...	...	51
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage	...	...	...	...	20
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	3
Various	...	...	...	...	40
					167

The F.A.P. at the Mount and the Cottage Hospital have been kept in readiness for the reception of Casualties due to Air Raids and other enemy action and have most efficiently carried out their duties in this respect.

The details of the various premises to be inspected and the work done in connection therewith are set out fully in the report of the Sanitary Inspector and it is therefore unnecessary for me to recapitulate them.

In concluding my Report I have to acknowledge the consideration always shown to me by the Council and valuable help received from my brother officials.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1941.

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
FOR THE
Year Ending December 31st, 1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough.
Your Worship and Gentlemen,

The Minister of Health has intimated that reports for 1940, shall contain only essential matters. The following brief report is submitted covering the principal items of Sanitary Inspector's work during the year.

The Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Saunders, left in December to take up an appointment with the Salisbury and Wilton R.D.C.

HOUSING.

The house at Church Road, Brents, represented in 1939 was thoroughly repaired by the owners and the undertaking cancelled. Two of the Partridge Place houses were demolished by the owners.

Under the Regulations 157 houses were inspected and the necessary records made. Of this number 115 were found not in all respects fit and notices sent to the Owners for defects to be remedied. It was necessary to serve 6 Statutory Notices under the Housing Act and 26 under various sections of the Public Health Act to secure compliance with the Acts. In connection with 2 notices the Council carried out the work in default of the Owner. The provision of flushing cisterns to existing closets is proceeding slowly.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The usual enquiries were made in connection with notified cases and 50 rooms disinfected for necessary reasons.

WATER SUPPLY

Four samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for chemical analysis, including three from the Public Supply. The reports received shew the water to be of good or excellent organic quality. In addition six samples were taken from the Public Supply for bacteriological examination. All the samples shewed "B Coli absent in 100 c.c.'s therefore good water."

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Seven of the slaughterhouses in the Borough were discontinued for the duration of the war on the coming into operation in January of the Government Centralised Slaughtering Scheme. The Co-operative Society's premises were taken over for the purpose and they are capable of dealing with the ordinary and also special demands that may arise.

It is hoped that the scheme with improvements will continue in operation after the war thereby giving better facilities and control of meat inspection.

MEAT REGULATIONS

The particulars of work under the regulations summarised for the year are:—

Animals inspected:—

Private Slaughterhouses Jan. 1—15.

Beasts	...	40
Cows	...	48
Sheep	...	535
Pigs	...	347
Calves	...	26

996

In Govt. S.H. Jan. 16th—Dec. 31st.

Beasts	...	664
Cows	...	212
Sheep	...	5059
Pigs	...	612
Calves	...	243

6790 Total ... 7786

859 inspections were made to the Slaughterhouses and Market, while 355 inspections were made to meat, fish and other food shops.

The total amount of meat and organs surrendered on account of disease and unsound conditions was 10957 lbs, other food inspections resulted in the surrender of 1068 lbs. of fish which arrived here in a state of decomposition and 173 lbs. of cereals, etc., damaged by glass, making a total weight of food surrendered at 12198 lbs.

A large quantity of flour and pollards was recovered (from a wreck) in part of the Port Health Authority's area and authority issued for its use for animal feeding.

The number of animals found wholly or partly diseased was 472, while 51% of the total weight of meat and organs surrendered was on account of tuberculosis.

The following is a summary of the work:—

	Cattle excluding		Sheep and		
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	704	260	269	5594	959
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	15	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	85	48	3	148	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	12.07	18.84	1.11	2.72	3.02
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	3	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	42	65	—	—	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.1	26.15	—	—	1.66

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

The following are on the register:—

Producers	...	...	...	6
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	13
Registered Premises	...	...	...	15

104 inspections were made.

The samples of milk taken during the year comprised:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	5
T.T. and Accredited	...	...	...	16
P.A. Institutions	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	3
				<hr/> 25

Three Accredited failed to comply with the prescribed conditions.

FACTORIES

The following premises are on the register:—

Factories (with power)	...	...	...	50
Factories (without power)	...	...	...	42
				<hr/> 92

7 retail bakehouses and 5 factory bakehouses are included in these figures.

116 inspections were made and four nuisances found.

Two lists of outworkers were received and entered in the register.

DEFECTS and NUISANCES

dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Choked and defective drains	...	...	...	63
Defective and insufficient closets	...	...	...	216
New cisterns provided to closets	...	...	...	7
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	15
No sinks	...	...	...	3
Insanitary sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	4
Defective roofs and gutters	...	...	...	96
Damp walls	...	...	...	52
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	32
Defective windows	...	...	...	4
Defective floors	...	...	...	7
Defective paving to yard	...	...	...	4
Defective chimneys, stoves and coppers	...	...	...	24
Defective doors and frames	...	...	...	6
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	11
Limewashing overdue	...	...	...	2
Various	...	...	...	8
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	554

INSPECTIONS

Housing Regulations	...	...	157
Premises, Drains, Dustbins	..	...	465
Infectious Diseases	...	...	54
Slaughterhouses and Cattle Market	...	...	859
Fish, Fruit and Meat Shops, Markets	...	...	355
Stables	...	...	10
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	104
Factories (including Bakehouses)	..	...	116
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	24
Reinspections, Unfit Houses, Hop Huts, etc.	..	...	1518
Total	...	...	<u>3662</u>

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND

During inspection of houses, etc.	...	..	554
Factories	...	...	0
Total	...	...	<u>554</u>

ACTION TAKEN

Informal notices served	...	...	289
Statutory notices P.H. Acts	...	...	26
Statutory notices Housing Acts	...	...	6
Total	...	...	<u>321</u>

RESULTS

Defects and nuisances remedied including those outstanding December 31st, 1939	...	...	530
Defects and nuisances outstanding December 31st, 1940	...	...	63
Total	...	...	<u>593</u>

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE G. CULMER,

West Street, Faversham.

M.R.San.Inst., M.S.I.A.

27th February, 1941.

Sanitary Inspector.